Attorney Docket No.: 042390.P7954   PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:)
)
    Dedrick, et al.   )
)   Examiner: K. Abdi
Application No: 09/541,391   )
)   Art Unit: 3621
Filed: March 31, 2000   )
)
For: AUTOMATED VOLUME LICENSE   )
     AGREEMENT METHOD AND   )
     APPARATUS   )

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

[handwritten: Fax RECEIVED Sep 26 2002 Group 3600]

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Dear Sir:

In response to the final Office Action mailed September 3, 2002, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present U.S. Patent application as amended herein. Claims 1, 8, 10, 16 and 17 have been amended. Claims 7, 15 and 23 have been canceled. No claims have been added. Thus, claims 1-6, 8-14, 16-22 and 24 are pending.

1. (Twice Amended) An apparatus comprising:

    a repository for storing a volume license agreement for a product;

    a repository for maintaining a purchase history for the product;

    a rules engine containing a set of rules for determining a discount step for the product in accordance with the volume licensing agreement;

a pricing generator to calculate a purchase price for the product in accordance with the discount step and the purchase history, wherein the pricing generator determines whether the discount step is current and, if the discount step is not current, determines a new discount step and updates the purchase price; and

a purchase generator to display the purchase price and transact a purchase of the product in response to a user request.

Please cancel claim 7.

8. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the rules engine further contains a set of rules for determining the discount step for the product in accordance with a profile of the user that requested the purchase.

10. (Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing:

storing a volume license agreement for a product;

maintaining a purchase history for the product;

determining a discount step for the product in accordance with the volume licensing agreement,

calculating a purchase price for the product in accordance with the discount step and the purchase history;

determining whether the discount step is current;

determining a new discount step and updating the purchase price, if the discount step is not current; and

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transacting a purchase of the product in response to a user approving the purchase price.

Please cancel claim 15.

16. (Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 10, wherein the discount step determining instructions further contain instructions for determining the discount step for the product in accordance with a user profile of the user approving the purchase price.

17. (Amended) A computer implemented method comprising:

storing a volume license agreement for a product in a repository;

recording a history of purchases of the product pursuant to the volume license agreement;

determining a discount step for the product in accordance with the volume licensing agreement,

calculating a price for a purchase of the product in accordance with the discount step and the history of purchases;

determining whether the discount step is current;

determining a new discount step and updating the price, if the discount step is not current; and

transacting the purchase of the product for the generated price in response to a purchaser request.

Please cancel claim 23.